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GENERAL ROGER CHEW WEIGHTMAN, A MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

BY ALLEN C. CLARK.

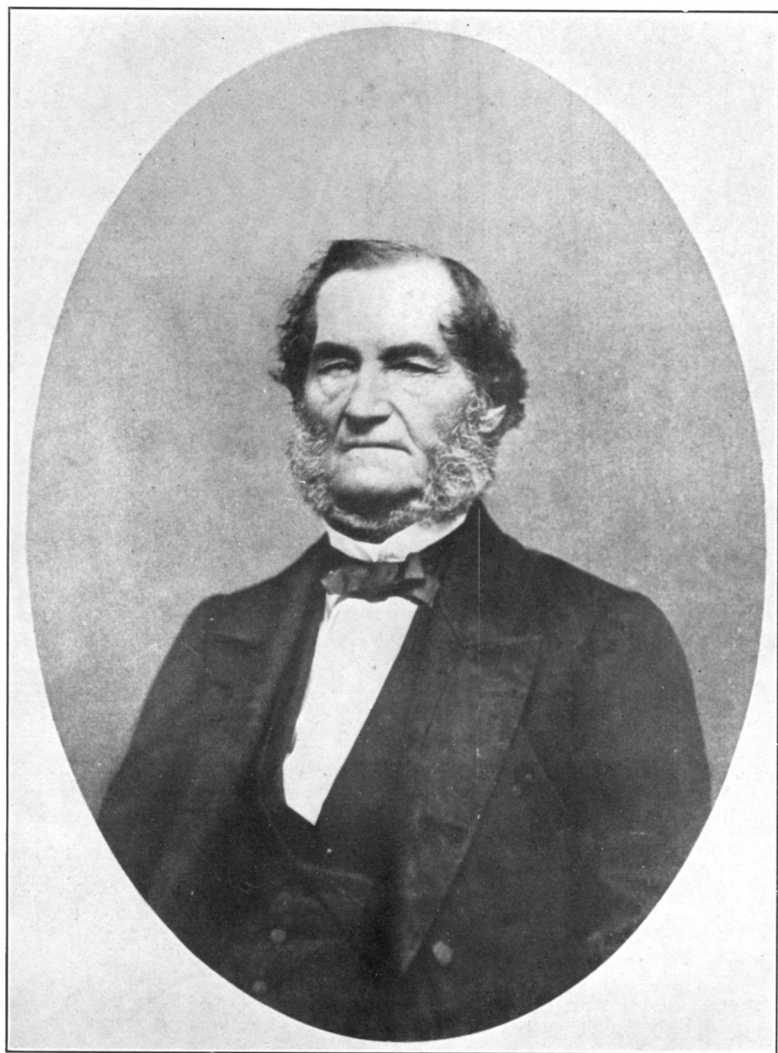
(Read before the Society, April 16, 1918.)

Roger Chew Weightman in an old birthday book has his entry into the world recorded "Jan. 18th, 1787." He was born in Alexandria, Virginia. His father, Richard Weightman, was from Whitehaven, England;¹ his mother's maiden name was Chew. His parents likely never heard of eugenics, yet in him had an exponent.

Young Weightman came to Washington when the general government to it was moving from Philadelphia. To gain a livelihood his capital was mental and manual. He selected the printing trade and engaged himself to Way and Groff, which from 1801 had its plant in the brick house on the south side of E street between Seventh and Eighth. He became an assistant to William Duane who printed and published at the northwest corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Sixth street. Weightman, May 27, 1807, bought the Duane business. Mr. Weightman had a bookstore also on F street in 1811. He discontinued the printing and publishing branch.

Mr. Weightman was successful. He bought in 1811, 1812 and 1813 the properties opposite his first establishment fronting on Pennsylvania avenue, Sixth and C streets, designated on the official plat as lots part 8, 9, part 10, 11 and 12 in square 491. He built in 1816

¹ Died at Alexandria, February 29, 1812, aged 52. "A worthy and respected inhabitant of that place."



ROGER CHEW WEIGHTMAN.

or before on the avenue front what was known as the Weightman buildings.² In the corner he had a store where he sold books, but more the greater essentials of life, particularized in an advertisement, October 2, 1824: "Yarns, plaid shirtings, chambrays, sattenetts, chocolate, sugar, nails." The same date, September, 1813, he relinquished his branch store on F street, near Fifteenth, adjoining Mrs. Curtis' boarding house.

In the Weightman buildings for two years prior to August 15, 1820, the Mayor and the Register had offices; then they moved to the new City Hall. The National Hotel was built, taking in the Weightman buildings. It was opened the first time by John Gadsby, Washington's birthday, 1826, with parade and ball. From 1828 to 1832, the Bank of Washington had quarters on the first floor; at the latter date, it removed to its permanent banking house. In 1849, Calvert and Co. became the proprietors of the hotel; they made many improvements.

Mr. Weightman was a defender in the War of 1812. He was First Lieutenant of the Washington Light Horse, May 30, 1812. Elias B. Caldwell was the Captain. Captain Caldwell with his cavalry was ordered

² "On the site now occupied by the National Hotel, Gen. Weightman erected the row of houses which three or four generations ago were known as Weightman's Buildings. These were a block of five or six three story bricks, arranged for dwellings, with store rooms in one or two. Gen. Weightman lived in the corner house, and conducted a book and stationery store, which was the center of the literary circle of that day. The general, being a popular officer of the militia, and prominent in municipal affairs as a member of the city councils, and in 1824 as mayor of the city, drew about him the leading citizens, and at his store many members of Congress and other government officials were wont to gather. There were located here Joseph Wood, a portrait painter of repute, and Samuel Hanson, a clerk in the land office. John Graeff occupied one of the houses as a dwelling and wine store, and in another was John Gardner, who conducted a boarding house, at which Levi Barber and John W. Campbell, of Ohio; Thomas R. Mitchell, of South Carolina, and other congressmen were quartered."—James Croggon.

“to remove and destroy forage and provisions in front of the enemy, and to impede his march as much as possible, August 20, 1814.”³ The march of the enemy was that to Washington by way of Bladensburg. General Winder collected all his forces for the battle of Bladensburg and Lieut. Weightman was of the army which ran. Men of mind are not boasters. Mr. Weightman was a man of mind. Yet a lapse does not defeat the rule and Mr. Weightman in one thing did boast, and that, at the Battle of Bladensburg, he “ran as fast as the rest of them.” Lieut. Weightman with the rest of them helped to prove the Hudibras sentiment:

“Hence timely running’s no mean part
Of conduct in the martial art.”

Among the papers of President Madison is a communication of Lieut. Weightman, with the President’s endorsement on it.

COOL SPRINGS, Sept 6, 1814

“Tuesday night

“7 o’clock

“*Dr Sir,*

“Mr Carroll arrived here between 4 and 5 o’clock this afternoon while I was on the heights of Benedict, with information from Sergeant Clark that the whole force of the enemy had gone down the bay—He has himself proceeded to the mouth of the Potomac to ascertain whether they move up that river or not. I apprehend however that they will not go up the Potomac as I have just learned that the enemy’s ships have passed down that river. I shall proceed to Allen’s Fresh in the morning—Clark will direct to me there, if Gaither finds him, who was met by Carroll this afternoon and directed to the most likely place to get information of him.

“Respectfully Yours

“R. C. WEIGHTMAN

“Capt Caldwell—

³ “Centennial History of Washington, D. C.”

“Mr. Young takes this to Piscataway and he to take it from there.

“The enemy have not been seen today from the heights of Benedict with a good glass—Carroll states they were under sail at 11 o'clock this morning.”

The communication of Lieut. Weightman has reference to the retirement of the enemy from the Potomac to appear before Fort Henry on the Patapsco.

National Intelligencer, May 7, 1814:

“Married on Thursday evening, the 5th inst. by the Rev. Mr. Gilson, Roger Chew Weightman, Esq. to Miss Serena Hanson, daughter of Samuel Hanson of Saml. Esq. all of this city.”

No other item of information is there than he gave her a silver cup⁴ with the same sentiment sung by Old Ben Jonson:

“Drink to me only with thine eyes,
And I will pledge with mine;
Or leave a kiss but in the cup,
And I'll not look for wine.”

Mr. Weightman was elected to the tenth council, as common councilman, June, 1812. He then was in his twenty-sixth year. He continued in the eleventh and twelfth councils, each council representing a year, in the same capacity. He was the President for these two councils. He was a common councilman in the eighteenth council, beginning June, 1820. He was an alderman for three consecutive councils, the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first, beginning June, 1821.

In the joint ballot of the Councilors, June 9, 1817, for Mayor, Mr. Weightman had support. Benjamin G. Orr was elected.

⁴ The property of Roger Weightman Jannus.

At the election for Mayor, June, 1822, the rival candidates were Thomas Carbery and Mr. Weightman. The vote was close. On the face of the returns Mr. Carbery had a narrow margin. Mr. Weightman carried the contest to the Court. There the contest continued until Mr. Carbery's term expired, which conclusion has parallel in Dean Swift's lines on Cadenus and Vaneesa:

"For sixteen years the cause was spun,
And then stood where it first begun."

Mr. Bryan's work, "A History of the National Capital," has everything in it, briefly and yet comprehensively; accurately and yet attractively told. Mr. Bryan has that at this election were two parties—the poor man's party represented by Mr. Carbery, which required no more possessions than the clothes the citizen was in, and the moneyed aristocracy represented by Mr. Weightman, which required wealth to the extent of an assessment for one hundred dollars on the tax ledgers.

At the election, June, 1824, Mr. Carbery and Mr. Smallwood angled for the suffrages of the voters for Mayoral honors. Mr. Smallwood won.

Mr. Weightman was elected, Monday, October 4, 1824, by the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council, in joint session, Mayor, for the term ending June, 1826, in the place of Samuel N. Smallwood, deceased.

For mayorship Mr. Carbery and Mr. Weightman, June 5, 1826, again appealed to the voters. Mr. Carbery had 331 votes; Mr. Weightman, 487. The following Tuesday, Mr. Weightman addressed the two Boards:

"In taking a second time the oath prescribed by the charter,

it shall be my pride and my pleasure to administer the office of First Magistrate of this rising Metropolis with a single eye to the public welfare. In doing this, I am persuaded that I shall best express my convictions of the kindness of my fellow citizens, in calling me to the highest office in their gift. But it is to you, gentlemen, that the city looks with confidence for the enactment of wise and salutary laws. On the wisdom of your councils mainly depends our common prosperity. Let our joint efforts prove that the confidence of our constituents has not been misplaced."

The candidates were recognized as exemplary citizens and although the editors of the *National Intelligencer* from a political standpoint favored the rivals of Mr. Carbery, yet when that gentleman, June 15, 1826, was appointed Inspector of the Revenue and Deputy Collector of the Customs they editorially congratulated the citizens.

Mr. Weightman as Mayor conjointly with the Mayor of Georgetown had charge of the inaugural programme at the inauguration of John Quincy Adams, as President, March 4, 1825. They appointed Marshals of the day, Daniel Carroll of Duddington, General John Mason and Thomas Munroe.

All was agog on Lafayette's triumphal tour of the "U. States." There was that and that, as elsewhere, in the National City to hold in mind the idolized visitor. At Pishey Thompson's bookstore, n. s. Pennsylvania Avenue between 11th and 12th Streets, were Lafayette medals and Lafayette portraits. At the Theatre was "Lafayette, or, the Castle of Olmutz"; and that the tragic might not make frightful slumber was added the musical farce, "The Devil to Pay; or Wives Metamorphosed."

Marquis de Marie Jean Paul Roch Yves Gilbert Motier Lafayette visited Washington in his sixty-

seventh year. The committee for the reception, August 20, 1824, was Samuel N. Smallwood, Mayor, William W. Seaton, President of the Board of Aldermen, Peter Force, President of the Board of Common Council, Charles W. Goldsborough and George Watterston of the Aldermen, Edward I. Lewis and William Hunt of the Common Council, Maj. Gen. Jacob Brown, U. S. A., Commodore Thomas Tingey, U. S. N., Daniel Carroll of Duddington, Richard Bland Lee. The Mayor was the Chairman of the Committee; Mr. Seaton, Secretary. Mr. Smallwood died September 30. Mr. Weightman having succeeded as Mayor succeeded automatically to the chairmanship of the committee.

To have a clearer view of the setting for the reception of General Lafayette it is recalled that the Capitol did not then have the large dome over the rotunda and that the two wings were not commenced. The eastern portico had just been completed but not the grand stairway. The Capitol Square which within a year had a sidewalk laid along its borders was enclosed by a fence. The bounds of the Square were First Street east and A Street north and A south. At the east was a central gate. The grade on the eastern bound was about six feet higher than at present. On First Street at A north was the Old Capitol; on First from A south, northward, Carroll Row. In the street, East Capitol Street, immediately east of the Square, was a public market.

During the night preceding the reception young women decorated the entrance to the Square. Over the keystone was placed an eagle. Scrolls were caught with these inscriptions: "Lafayette, the associate of Washington, and Liberty's friend." "Hail, friend of Freedom." "A grateful Nation will not forget him who generously volunteered in her defence." Dra-

peries in bright colors and garlands of green added to the effect. The decoration, a surprise, reflected credit on the taste and industry of the ladies by whom it was designed and executed and called forth "loud expressions of admiration from the multitude."

October 12, 1824. At the District line the Baltimore Committee to the Washington Committee relinquished the guest. He in an elegant landau, drawn by four greys, accompanied by Maj. Gen. Brown and Commo. Tingey, and in another, George Washington Lafayette, his son, and Col. Vassieur, his secretary, with George Washington Parke Custis, had military escort. On the arrival at the city line, artillery posted on Maryland avenue gave salute and salutes followed at the Navy Yard and the Arsenal, at the latter with pieces captured in the Revolutionary War at Bennington, Saratoga and Yorktown.

"On rising to the extensive plain which stretches eastward from the Capitol to the Anacostia river, the General found himself in front of the most brilliant spectacle which our city ever witnessed, being a body of 10 or 1200 troops, composed entirely of volunteer companies of the City, Georgetown, and Alexandria, some of them recently organized, clad in various tasteful uniforms, and many of them elegant beyond any thing of the kind we have before seen." "Brig. Gen'ls Smith and Jones were in the field with their respective field officers of the first brigade. These troops, together with the larger body of cavalry, the vast mass of eager spectators which occupied the plain, and animation of the whole, associated with the presence of the venerated object of so much curiosity, gave a grandeur and interest to the scene which has never been equalled here on any former occasion."

The entire body of troops moved along East Capitol street towards the Capitol as escort. The General alighted at the east end of the market house. The

market on the exterior with other adornments had the Declaration of Independence over which was perched a great live eagle. The General passed through the draped market and entered the eastern entrance of the Capitol Square already mentioned.

At the gate the General was met by twenty-five girls, dressed in white and bearing flags and wreaths, twenty-four representing States and one the District of Columbia. The representative of the District arrested his progress and in a short speech delivered a welcome.⁵ Each of the girls presented her hand which the General received in affectionate manner and with kind expressions. (I quote briefly from the *Intelligencer*.) "He then passed a double line of girls, properly dressed, from the schools, who strewed his way with flowers." Then lines of students from the institutes. He was conducted through the great door at the north side of the Capitol, up the grand case, into the central rotunda "which of immense size, was filled with ladies and gentlemen." He passed on to the portico through the old tent of Washington lent by Mr. Custis to the front. The introduction concluded, in the presence of many thousand spectators, the Mayor delivered this address:

"*General:* In beholding you again in our country, after a lapse of forty years, and in the Capital of our Nation, on the vestibule of this magnificent temple, dedicated to its liberty, and at the door of that tent which, for eight years, formed the principal habitation of the achiever of our freedom; that tent in which you have so often partaken of his cares, and participated in his councils, the citizens of Washington feel emotions beyond the power of utterance.

"The gratitude and admiration which have been exhibited by our countrymen, since your arrival in the land which your

⁵ Miss S. M. Watterston, eleven years of age, daughter of George Watterston, Librarian of Congress.

exertions contributed to render free, are evidences of the estimation in which we hold him who bravely and generously aided in the attainment of the blessings we now enjoy. But the admiration and gratitude already displayed cannot excel what we feel on this occasion, nor what the whole American nation must feel, in beholding the associate of their Washington, and the brave defender of their country. The splendid and disinterested actions of your youth have been deeply interwoven with the memory of the old, and transmitted to the young of the present day. Actuated by the principles of a glorious Revolution, and animated by the example of its illustrious Chief, we have rejoiced to behold you, in every condition in which destiny has placed you, the same undeviating and unchangeable friends of liberty and of man.

“We will refrain from enumerating all the disinterested and splendid services you have rendered to our country; but, permit us particularly to refer to that awful period when, commanding in chief in the commonwealth of Virginia, you foiled the most renowned Captain of our enemy, confining him to the narrow precincts of Yorktown, where he was soon compelled to surrender to the combined arms, under Washington of the United States, and of our good friend, and potent and magnanimous ally, Louis the Sixteenth, King of France; in which memorable siege you acted a leading and distinguished part.

“With these recollections, we welcome you, with our whole hearts, to the Metropolis of our Nation, created since you left us, out of a wilderness—a city especially founded by our people as the *permanent memorial* of their liberty. To render it, at the same time, the *perpetual monument* of their grateful veneration for the pure, wise, brave, and consummate leader of our armies, and founder of our Republic, they bestowed on it the immortal name of WASHINGTON; under whom you learned the art of war; under whom you became a great and mighty prop to our cause, always commanding the confidence of your chief in the hours of gloom and peril; and, after our country’s freedom and safety had crowned your united efforts with imperishable glory, enjoying his steady, sincere, and

unvarying esteem and friendship to the latest moment of his life."

General Lafayette replied:

"The kind and flattering reception with which I am honored by the citizens of Washington, excites the most lively feelings of gratitude. Those grateful feelings, sir, at every step of my happy visit to the United States could not but enhance the inexpressible delight I have enjoyed at the sight of the immense wonderful improvements, so far beyond even the fondest anticipations of a warm American heart, and which, in the space of forty years, have so gloriously evinced the superiority of popular institutions and self-governments over the too imperfect state of political civilization found in every part of the other hemisphere. In this august place, which bears the most venerated of all ancient and modern names, I have, sir, the pleasure to contemplate not only a centre of that constitutional union so necessary to these states, so important to the interests of mankind, but also a great political school, whose attentive observers from other parts of the world may be taught the practical science of true social order. Among the circumstances of my life, to which you have been pleased to allude, none can afford me such dear recollections as to my having been early adopted as an American soldier; so there is not a circumstance of my reception, in which I take so much pride, as my sharing those honors with my beloved companions in arms: Happy I am to feel that the marks of affection and esteem bestowed on me bear testimony to my perseverance in the American principles I received under the Tents of Washington, and of which I shall, to my last breath, prove myself a devoted disciple. I beg you, Mr. Mayor, and the gentlemen of the Corporation, to accept my respectful acknowledgments to you and to the citizens of Washington."

Mr. John Cox, the Mayor of Georgetown, stepped in front and said in part:

"*General*: . . . It remains but for me to say, that the elec-

tric glow which was kindled at your arrival in America has vibrated with undiminishing force among my fellow townsmen, and that they yield to none in the sincerity with which they bid you welcome. Permit me to add my individual happiness in being made the medium of their address."

The General assured the Mayor that Georgetown was an old acquaintance of his, where he had found many friends, valuable and esteemed—and with greatest delight he would visit it.

For the Revolutionary officers, John Brown Cutting, the town laureate, addressed the General, in prose and poetry:

Come then, Fayette! accept deserv'd applause,
Who fought and bled in Freedom's sacred cause;
Take well-earned praises, fervent and sublime,
Burnish'd and Brighten'd by the wing of Time;
Take from the City of that Heroe's name,
Dear to thy soul, emblazon'd with thy fame,
Honors that grateful lofty minds dilate,
Ordain'd for deeds imperishably great!

The General, in the series of replies, continued:

"While I embrace you, Sir, and make acknowledgments to those of our Revolutionary comrades, in whose name you welcome me to this metropolis, be assured that I reciprocate those kind expressions of attachment, which from them are peculiarly gratifying. And although, in doing this, it cannot be expected that I should command such beautiful language as you employ, yet I speak from the bottom of my heart, when I assure you that the associations of time and place to which you allude, exalt the interest which I shall ever feel in your prosperity, and that of every meritorious individual who belonged to the Revolutionary Army of the United States."

The guest was conducted to the door of the north wing by the Mayor. With the General, the Mayor

ascended the landau accompanied by General Brown and Commodore Tingey. The procession was resumed in the original order and moved up Pennsylvania Avenue.

“In this passage the streets were lined with spectators; but the most pleasing sight was the windows on each side of it filled with ladies in their best attire and looks, bestowing with beaming eyes, their benedictions on the beloved Chief and waving white handkerchiefs, as tokens of their happiness.”

The General in company with the Committee was received at the Executive Mansion by the Marshal of the District, Tench Ringgold. He was conducted into the drawing room, where awaited him, the President, Mr. Monroe. The General and the procession then proceeded to his quarters at the Franklin Hotel, 1 and Twenty-first Streets.

The dinner was at six o'clock. The toasts at that extraordinary function as in all others at that period followed endless until the bottles were wineless; but the first at the Lafayette dinner was by the Mayor: *General Lafayette*: “Honor for his bravery; love for his worth; and gratitude for his services.” The General felicitously replied. His toast was: “The City of Washington—the central star of the constellation which enlightens the whole world.”

Fireworks in the Mall and illumination of residences made the night honors.

“Thus, this, the most brilliant event, perhaps, in the history of Washington, passed away. If neither our population nor resources enabled us to approach the splendor of Eastern cities, on this occasion, we have done our utmost to show the sincerity of the homage which we are disposed to pay to the early services and exemplary virtues of Lafayette.”

Congress gave a grand banquet to General Lafayette. Two hundred guests assembled at the Williamson's, January 1, 1825, at six o'clock. Joel R. Poinsett, from South Carolina, had the management. Mr. Gaillard, President of the Senate, presided at one table; Mr. Clay, Speaker of the House, presided at the other. The President, Mr. Monroe, sat on one side of Mr. Gaillard; General Lafayette, the other. While the dinner was served, a Revolutionary soldier, eighty years of age, from the Shenandoah section, arrived at the hotel. Mr. Poinsett personally invited the veteran to come up; he presented him to the General.

Said the veteran: "General, you don't remember me. I took you off the field when wounded in the fight at Brandywine."

"Is your name John Near?" asked the General.

"It is, General."

The General embraced him and congratulated him on his strength and years. "John Near also became the guest of Congress and remained at Williamson's a fortnight, feasting upon the good cheer and retiring to bed every night in a comfortable state of inebriation." Lafayette gave him \$2,000; which he exchanged for a Virginia farm.

At the banquet, General Lafayette gave the toast: "Perpetual union among the States—It has saved us in times of danger; it will save the world."

At a town meeting in the City Hall, June 8, 1826, the citizens "to make arrangements for celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of American Independence, in a manner worthy of the metropolis of the nation" appointed a committee of thirteen, to wit: The Mayor (Chairman), Commo. William Bainbridge, Thomas Carbery, Asbury Dickens, Joseph Gales, Col. Archibald Henderson, Dr. Henry Hunt, Gen. Thomas S.

Jesup, Col. Roger Jones, Capt. John L. Kuhn, Richard Bland Lee, Thomas Munroe, Judge Buckner Thruston, Dr. Tobias Watkins (Secretary).

Daily National Intelligencer, July 4, 1826:

“The sentiments contained in the following letters are in every respect so appropriate to the occasion of this day’s Celebration, that, in offering them to our readers, it would be supererogation to add a word of comment. If history is philosophy teaching by example, where could a more beautiful example be found, than in that which is afforded by the following Letters from the surviving men of the Revolution?

WASHINGTON, June 14, 1826.

“*Sir*: As Chairman of a Committee appointed by the citizens of Washington, to make arrangements for celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of American Independence in a manner worthy of the Metropolis of the Nation, I am directed to invite you, as one of the Signers of the ever-memorable Declaration of the Fourth of July, 1776, to favor the City with your presence on the occasion.

“I am further instructed to inform you, that, on receiving your acceptance of this invitation, a special deputation will be sent, to accompany you from your residence to this City, and back to your home.

“With sentiments of the highest respect and veneration, I have the honor to be, your most obedient servant,

“R. C. WEIGHTMAN

“Mayor of Washington, and Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements.”

“DOUGHORAGEN MANOR, June 17, 1826.

“*Sir*: I was this day favored with your letter of the 14th inst.

“I am much obliged to the Committee for their invitation to attend, on the fourth of next month, the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of American Independence, in the Me-

tropolis of the United States. Having received a similar invitation from the City of New York, and having declined it, I cannot with propriety attend the celebration at Washington.

"Accept, Sir, my thanks for the sentiments you have expressed to me in your letter.

"I remain, with great respect, Sir, your most humble servant.

"CH. CARROLL, of Carrollton."

"QUINCY, June 22, 1826.

"R. C. WEIGHTMAN, Esq., Chairman, jr.

"*Sir*: Col. House, of the U. S. Army, now stationed at Fort Independence in my neighborhood, has favored me with a call, and communicated your very polite letter, desiring him to offer me an escort to Washington in order to celebrate with you the approaching Fiftieth Anniversary of our National Independence.

"I feel very grateful for this mark of distinguished and respectful attention on the part of the citizens of the City of Washington, which the present state of my health forbids me to indulge the hope of participating, only with my best wishes for the increasing prosperity of your city, and the constant health of its inhabitants.

"I am, Sir, with much respect, your friend and humble Servant,

"J. ADAMS."

"MONTICELLO, June 24, 1826.

"*Respected Sir*: The kind invitation I received from you, on the part of the citizens of the City of Washington, to be present with them at their celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of American Independence, as one of the surviving signers of an instrument, pregnant with our own and the fate of the world, is most flattering to myself, and heightened by the honorable accompaniment proposed for the comfort of such a journey. It adds sensibly to the sufferings of sickness, to be deprived by it of a personal participation in the rejoic-

ings of that day; but acquiescence is a duty under circumstances not placed among those we are permitted to control. I should, indeed, with peculiar delight, have met and exchanged these congratulations, personally, with the small band, the remnant of that host of worthies who joined with us, on that day, in the bold and doubtful election we were to make, for our country, between submission and the sword; and to have enjoyed with them the consolatory fact that our fellow citizens, after half a century of experience and prosperity continue to approve the choice we made. May it be to the world, what I believe it will be (to some parties sooner, to others later, but finally to all), the signal of arousing men to burst the chains, under which monkish ignorance and superstition had persuaded them to bind themselves, and to assume the blessings and security of self-government. The form which we have substituted restores the free right to the unbounded exercise of reason and freedom of opinion. All eyes are opened or opening to the rights of man. The general spread of the lights of science has already laid open to every view the palpable truth, that the mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs, nor a favored few, booted and spurred, ready to ride them legitimately, by the grace of God. These are grounds of hope for others; for ourselves, let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of those rights, and an undiminished devotion to them.

“I will ask permission here to express the pleasure with which I should have met my ancient neighbors of the City of Washington and its vicinities, with whom I passed so many years of a pleasing social intercourse—an intercourse which so much relieved the anxieties of the public cares, and left impressions so deeply engraved in my affections, as never to be forgotten. With my regret that ill health forbids me the gratification of an acceptance, be pleased to receive for yourself, and those for whom you write, the assurance of my highest respect and friendly attachments.

“TH. JEFFERSON.”

The committee of arrangements through the Mayor invited the Ex-Presidents and he varied the communication to fit:

“MONTPELIER, June 20, 1826.

“*Dear Sir:* I received by yesterday’s mail your letter of the 14th, inviting, in the name of the Committee of Arrangements, my presence at the celebration, in the Metropolis of the United States, of the Fiftieth Anniversary of American Independence.

“I am deeply sensible of what I owe to this manifestation of respect, on the part of the Committee, and not less so of the gratifications promised by an opportunity of joining with those, among whom, I should find myself, in commemorating the events which calls forth so many reflections on the past and anticipations of the future career of our country. Allow me to add that the opportunity would derive an enhanced value from the pleasure with which I should witness the growing prosperity of Washington, and of its citizens, whose kindness, during my long residence among them, will always have a place in my grateful recollections.

“With impressions such as these, it is with a regret, readily to be imagined, that I am constrained to decline the flattering invitation you have communicated. Besides the infirmities incident to the period of life I have now reached, there is an instability of my health at present, which would forbid me to indulge my wishes, were no other circumstance unpropitious to them.

“This explanation will, I trust, be sufficient pledge that, although absent, all my feelings will be in sympathy with the sentiments inspired by the occasion. Ever honored will be the day which gave birth to a nation, and to a system of self-government, making it a new epoch in the history of man.

“Be pleased to accept, Sir, for yourself and the Committee, assurances of my respectful consideration, and of my best wishes.

“JAMES MADISON.

“R. C. WEIGHTMAN, Mayor of Washington,

“And Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, &c.”

“OAK HALL, June 28, 1826.

“*Sir*: In consequence of my attendance in Albemarle, on important concerns of a private nature, I was deprived, until to-day, of the gratification afforded by the receipt of your invitation to unite with my fellow citizens of the Metropolis of our Union, in the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of our Independence.

“Having devoted my best efforts, through a long series of years, to the support of that great cause, and a large portion of them in the Metropolis, the kindness shown me, by this invitation, is gratefully acknowledged. Many engagements which press on me at this time, render it impossible for me to leave home, of which you will have the goodness to apprise the Committee of Arrangement.

“With great respect and esteem, I have the honor to be, your very obedient servant,

“JAMES MONROE.”

The account of the Jubilee, has this apropos quotation from the scriptures, Leviticus xxv—9, 17, 18, to head it.

“Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound . . . throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof. Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God—and the land shall yield her fruit, and ye shall eat your fill, and dwell therein in safety.”

“The most conspicuous object in the procession was General Philip Stuart, a veteran, whose body is seamed with honorable wounds received in the war of the Revolution, habited in the military costume of the Revolution, bearing the standard of his country—supported on one side by Commodore Bainbridge, and on the other by Gen. Jesup.

“The exercises were at the Capitol. Hon. Joseph Anderson who was in battle throughout the Revolutionary War, with appropriate explanatory comment, read the Declaration

of Independence. The Metropolis's orator on all state occasions, Walter Jones, made the oration on this occasion.

"Here the Orator indulged in the most cheering anticipations, as well for this continent, as for the Old World, looking forward to the celebration of the next Jubilee—and predicting the universal freedom of all America, and the ameliorated condition of European nations."

Notice had been given by the Mayor that at the conclusion of the exercises a subscription for Mr. Jefferson would be opened. James Barbour, Secretary of War, made the appeal and Richard Rush, Secretary of Treasury, concurred in it.

It is a reasonable conclusion that the letter by Mr. Adams and the letter by Mr. Jefferson were the last written. Mr. Jefferson of his earthly end had no other solicitude than that he might not reach the Fiftieth National Anniversary. Said he: "Do not imagine for a moment that I feel the smallest solicitude about the result. I am like an old watch, with a pinion worn out here and a wheel there, until it can go no longer." He died at ten minutes before one o'clock.

The *Daily National Intelligencer* announced, July 7:

"THOMAS JEFFERSON IS NO MORE.—His weary sun hath made a golden set, leaving a bright tract of undying fame to mark his path to a glorious immortality."

Mr. Adams had the same solicitude. The day previous, the third, he mistakenly said, "*it is the day.*" His already benumbed faculties roused by the trumpet's clang and cannon's roar on the Day of Jubilee, he inquired of those around his bed, the cause of those signs of rejoicing and was informed that it was in honor of the Fourth of July. He answered—"It is a Great and Glorious Day!" Last he murmured,

"Jefferson still lives"—but Jefferson had passed on; Adams survived him a few hours.

It is a wonderful coincidence that even fifty years to the day from the date of the Declaration of Independence, the work of Mr. Jefferson, and within the hours it was being declaimed, his spirit should take flight; that Mr. Adams who asked that Mr. Jefferson write the document, within the same hours should close his mortality.

At the City Hall upon the Mayor's call was a town meeting, July 8, to arrange memorial honor to Mr. Jefferson; another, July 11, for like arrangement to Mr. Adams. William Wirt, then Attorney General, was designated to deliver an oration on Jefferson and Adams. A committee with the Mayor, chairman, was appointed to wait upon Mr. Wirt.

Sir Charles Richard Vaughan was the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States from Great Britain during Mr. Weightman's mayoral reign. In high society Sir Charles was the illumination, as the sun makes a light day. For didn't Dolly Madison to her niece write: "But if Sir Charles Vaughan leaves what will we all do?" And so, the Mayor, the chairman of the committee on arrangements for the Fourth of July dinner, enthusiastically and cordially invited Sir Charles. It was too near the last disagreement for Sir Charles to relish American buncombe. He saw the spirit and was not insulted and indited a diplomatic note to the effect he thought he should be indisposed on the Fourth of July.

The citizens of that time had for the city an eighteen carat admiration; in fact, were idolators. Everything about it to them was big and beautiful. Everything which happened was a little more grand than anything that ever happened before. The women were ladies,

ever young and lovely. The men without titles in front never failed to have less than an Esq. behind. The speakers had several shades of sweetness on the honey-lipped St. Chrysostom. The sideway for three blocks newly paved with brick was as a "paved work of sapphire stone" stretching to where the heaven makes the horizon. The city was the Metropolis of the Nation whereas it was not a sure-enough city until the Civil War and may not be a metropolitan city until after the German War. When the people came out to view the parade on Pennsylvania Avenue, the best avenue for the purpose in the whole world, it was the populace, the concourse, the multitude. The description of the crowds which lined the avenue will answer for these times when there are already here four hundred thousand and materially many more when anything is to be seen, visitors from the now populous nation.

The population began with a scant 16,000 and ended with 700 more in the three years of Mr. Weightman's administration. These figures included adults and minors, males and females, white and black. And Georgetown had perhaps half as many people as Washington. For the period in question the annualist's (John Sessford) résumé for 1826 suffices:

"The improvements in the City within the year are generally of a permanent nature and very valuable, and greater than they have been for some years past, in the improvement of streets and rapid extension of paved sideways—ample provision is made for the poor, and the education of youth at the public expense have been productive of great benefit."

President Adams entered in his journal, July 2, 1827, that Mr. Weightman, the Mayor, and Mr. Goldsborough came as a committee from the citizens to request him unite in the Independence Day celebration by

joining in the procession and attending the oration to be delivered at Dr. Laurie's church. Mr. Adams says the oration was by Richard S. Coxe, "after this there was sung an ode or hymn." The *Intelligencer's* reporter put this feature another way: "The pleasure of the whole being much enhanced by some fine music by an amateur choir of ladies and gentlemen under the direction of Mr. McDuell, and by the excellent music of the marine band." Mr. Adams continues to say that the house was scantily filled, that he was escorted home by a cavalry troop; and that he "received visitors, that is, the whole population, from one till three."

An important lottery decision was made in the time of the Weightman mayoralty. It was in Chastein Clark against the Corporation of Washington. Congress by an act, May 4, 1812, amendatory to the charter, gave the corporation full power and authority to authorize the drawing of lotteries for effecting any important improvement of the city, which the ordinary funds or revenue thereof, would not accomplish: provided, that the amount to be raised in each year shall not exceed the sum of ten thousand dollars. The President to pass upon the question of importance.

The Corporation of Washington passed various ordinances in reference to lotteries which are set out in the final opinion. The Managers for the Corporation sold to David Gillespie of New York a lottery called the "Fifth Class of the Grand National Lottery" for ten thousand dollars to be paid before its commencement. An agreement between the Managers and Gillespie was executed of date, May 4, 1821.

Advertisements appeared in the local papers having the names of the Managers to which was appended a notice by Gillespie "as agent for the managers" for

sale of tickets at his "Fortunate office, Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington City."⁶

The lottery ticket itself is almost a complete history of the lottery.

Fifth Class.	\$100,000 Highest Prize.		For erecting two Public Schoolhouses, a Penitentiary, and Town Hall.
	William Brent	} Managers.	
	John Davidson		
	Thomas H. Gillis		
	Andrew Way, Jun.		
	Moses Young		
	Daniel Rapine	No. 2929.	
	R. C. Weightman		
	National Lottery.		
	This Ticket will entitle the Possessor to such Prize as may be drawn to its Number, if demanded within twelve months after the completion of the Drawing; Subject to a deduction of Fifteen per cent. Payable sixty days after the Drawing is finished.		
	Washington City, February, 1821.		
	Thos. H. Gillis, <i>Manager</i> .		
	By Authority of Congress.		

Ticket No. 2929 is reproduced. It is the one for which Chastein Clark gave "thanks to giddy chance." It is useless to repeat the number. The number now can have no fortunate significance. The wheels of the lottery have ceased to spin. The blessings of the lottery are no more. The pleasures of the imagination sweeter than the pleasures of reality were in the pos-

⁶ "David Gillespie, U. S. lottery office, Penn. av. nearly opposite Brown's hotel." "Jesse Brown, proprietor of Indian Queen hotel, n. side Penn. av. btw 6 and 7 w." Directory, 1822.

session of him who had in his wallet a ticket for the next drawing. The possessor had already the tangible things of wealth as the homage given to wealth. Before the door of his stone front was a pompous lackey; upon the walls, the talent of the masters; his handsome equipage awed the crowd; he patronized genius, bestowed charity and sat with the wise—in his mind. If yet the lottery offered golden promise we would repeat Mr. Clark's number as the golden number for those who do not accept equal chance in all the numbers and whom Addison likened to the ass between two bundles of hay; his eyes and nose equally tempted by either side, he could not violate his neutrality before he starved to death. But the discussion is without worth. The poor are welcome to their poverty. The poor man's riches, thin as the impalpable air, and for a short span, are denied. The lottery has been crushed.

Mr. Clark, happy in expectation, presented the ticket which he had bought from an agent of Mr. Gillespie in Richmond. Mr. Gillespie having disposed to his own use the proceeds or a considerable part thereof, the Corporation declined to honor the ticket or even acknowledge its liability so to do. Its defense was really repudiation under a dress of legal sophistry.⁷

Mr. Clark brought an action in the Circuit Court for \$100,000, March 31, 1823. The case was removed to Alexandria County and there tried. At the trial the case was elaborately argued. Thomas Swann, the District Attorney, and William Wirt, the Attorney General, for the plaintiff, December 7, 8, 9, 10, 1824, and Walter Jones, for the defendants, December 11. The question on which turned the decision was whether Gillespie owned and operated the lottery on his own responsibility or whether he was the agent of the man-

⁷ The Mayor by Act approved September 3, 1827, was authorized to take out letters of administration on the estate of Gillespie.

agers. Verdict for \$35,000 was given. The Court granted a new trial. On an agreed statement at the April term, 1825, the Court gave judgment for the defendant, which was appealed. Cranch, 2, 502.

The hearing before the United States Supreme Court was on January 26, 1827. Daniel Webster in the high tribunal appeared as counsel instead of Mr. Swann. The decision was for the plaintiff, Clark; the opinion by Chief Justice Marshall. The brief of Mr. Jones is in narrow distinctions. The opinion of the Chief Justice is succinct and clear. Throughout the case ticket holders are called "fortunate adventurers for prizes." The court speaks of the limitation of \$10,000 as the yearly benefit the Corporation can desire as a Congressional restriction of gaming. Wheaton, 12, 40.

The message of Mayor Weightman announcing to the Councils the decision was, of course, mournful yet it had chinks through which glimmered the rays of hope. The first paragraph:

"MAYOR'S OFFICE, March 12, 1827.

"TO THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN AND BOARD OF COMMON
COUNCIL:

"Since the last meeting of the two Boards, the most interesting subject to our constituents is the late decision of the Supreme Court, in the case of Chastain Clarke against the Corporation, adverse to our pretensions. Their opinion, a copy of which is herewith sent, involves the City in a very heavy debt. The necessity and expediency of promptly meeting the judgment of the Court, in a manner which shall have the effect of presuming, unimpaired, our credit, with the least possible burthen upon the community, is submitted to the wisdom of the Councils. No better mode suggests to my mind, than the creation of a stock, the interest of which shall be paid out of our present Lottery resources, and the surplus pledged as a sinking fund to redeem the principal. If, in addition to

this, were added the accruing taxes upon improvements annually made, for a few years to come, the principal of the Stock thus created, might be extinguished without the necessity of any augmentation of our taxes; leaving us, at the same time, the whole of our present resources untouched, and applicable to the general improvement of the City. By the exercise of sound economy, and by limiting our appropriations to such objects only as shall promote our true interests, the abstraction of the revenue to be derived from the improvements for a few years to come, will not be felt, and the City will continue to advance in its present prosperous career.”

The Mayor advises other recoveries for prizes drawn.

The Councils by an Act approved September 13, 1827, authorized the issue of stock at four per cent. interest payable on or before thirty years to be delivered to Clark for a “good and sufficient acquittance in law and equity.” The line had poor bait to catch Mr. Clark. The Councils tried again by an Act approved October 23, 1827, which made the stock bear five per cent. and due in ten years. It was accepted. A similar act was passed, August 19, 1828; to provide for the other prizes drawn the Corporation was requested to redeem by judgments at law. The stock created to discharge Gillespie claims, April 1, 1829, was \$198,000.⁸

⁸ The early history of Washington reveals a very interesting feature, a system of lotteries. Lotteries with the approval of the President for improving the city were authorized in amounts of not exceeding \$10,000 in any one year by the charters of 1812 and 1820.

On November 3, 1812, the city council adopted a resolution to raise \$10,000 by lottery for building two public school houses. On August 3, 1814, a similar lottery to raise funds for the erection of a workhouse, and on May 10, 1815, one to raise funds for building a city hall were recommended. In 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, and 1821, resolutions were adopted for raising \$10,000 by lottery with which to erect the aforementioned buildings. By act of July 24, 1815, Congress appointed seven men to manage three lotteries authorized up to that time for raising a total of \$30,000. On November 17, 1818, an ordinance was passed au-

The ten lotteries of the Corporation, 1812 to 1821, including the Gillespie affair, netted the Corporation \$100,000, if the full limitation, *i. e.*, \$10,000 at each was fully realized.

The other mention of Mr. Weightman in Mr. Adams' journal is under date, May 31, 1827. It states that Rev. William Matthews, a clergyman of the Roman Catholic Church and Mr. Weightman, the Mayor, came as a committee from the directors of the Washington Library requesting the use of a public lot on which to erect a small brick building to keep the books. Father Matthews was the President of the Library.

Mr. Weightman resigned the mayoralty, July 21, 1827, to give his undivided attention to his duties as Cashier of the Bank of Washington to which he had been just elected. He continued to be the Cashier of that institution until 1834. At the time of his selection as Cashier he was a Director in the Branch of the United States Bank, F and Thirteenth streets. Mr. Weightman ran for Mayor, June, 1850, and was defeated by Walter Lenox, by the small margin of 32 votes.

In the early times, Mr. Weightman was on about all the committees for state occasions, as Independence Day and Birth Night celebrations, May balls, inauthorizing the mayor to appoint seven citizens to manage a lottery to raise a total sum of \$40,000, as provided for by the resolutions of 1816,-17,-18.

On January 4, 1827, an ordinance authorized the sale of the three pending lotteries, as well as any future ones to be authorized under the charter provisions, the purchasers to assume the entire responsibility for the payment of the prizes. Under this ordinance David Gillespie and others took over the management of the lotteries. Gillespie defaulted with the main prize and other amounts. The managers being unable to pay the prizes, the city was subjected to judgments aggregating upward of \$198,000. No further attempts were made to raise money by the lottery method.—Harry Milloff, Educational Contest, Washington high schools, 1915.

gurations and public dinners. General William Henry Harrison, the Whig presidential candidate, was met while on the steamboat, September 20, 1836, by a committee of which was Mr. Weightman. He was the one to present the letter extending "a hearty welcome to the Metropolis of the United States," which he did "with a neat and pertinent address."

"The Washington Guide," by William Elliot, published 1837, has given thirty-nine names as "Amongst those who by their wealth, talents, or industry have contributed to the formation of an infant Metropolis. . . . Roger C. Weightman."

The Columbian Institute for the promotion of "mathematical, physical, moral and political sciences, general literature and fine arts," was organized, October 7, 1816. Of the primal organization Mr. Weightman was elected a curator. Under the Congressional charter, April 20, 1818, he was of the first board of managers. The Institute was most honorable and its participants were men of national reputation and of city celebrity.

Of the Washington National Monument Society, Mr. Weightman was of the original board of managers (1833).

With Thomas Carbery, Mayor, William Prout, George Sweeny, and John P. Ingle, Mr. Weightman was a Commissioner for Building the City Hall (1820).

With Thomas Carbery, Mayor, George Watterston, James Hoban, and Adam Lindsay, Mr. Weightman was a Commissioner for Draining Low Grounds. Under authority of the Congressional act creating it, the Commissioners sold two squares on each side of Pennsylvania avenue formerly parts of the Mall.

Mr. Weightman had judicial authority, for he was a Justice of the Peace, January 2, 1827, to January 2, 1837.

Mr. Weightman was of the managers of the Rockville and Washington Turnpike Company (April, 4, 1828).

Mr. Weightman was Chairman of the citizens' committee (1820) to coöperate with the Corporation authorities in the encouragement of the construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

“How sharper than a serpent's tooth
It is to have a thankless child.”

Equally sharp it is to the child to be repaid in indifference and negligence for devotion and sacrifice. The Nation and the Nation's City are in relation of parent and child. In the earlier years to dress it to comport with its respectability as the Nation's City was a severe strain on the thin purse of the Corporation. The narrowness of its finances is evident in the lottery history. To realize an annual addition of \$10,000 to the revenues was attempted the hazard of the lottery then growing into disfavor on grounds of propriety. Even this amount of minor magnitude was too large for the sparse population. The Councils by Act directed the Mayor to address the State legislatures for the privilege of vending. It is a fact—it is not an assertion of recent origin—that in the earlier years the corporation of Washington paid about all the bills for improvements and the general government paid about none of the bills. Notwithstanding the devotion and the sacrifice of the Washingtonians in the care of the Nation's City, the Nation has neglected to allow them those rights which are dearest to the American bosom, common to all other Americans. Those rights are the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness secured by a government deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed. What here

is said, was eloquently said, by William Biddle Shepard, 1836, in the House of Representatives.

“In the plan originally adopted by the government for the city of Washington,” said Representative Shepard, “the width and extent of the streets were upon a scale greatly beyond the necessities of any resident population which will ever be found there.

“All this was done doubtless to gratify the national pride or for the accommodation of the public; why, then, should not the nation pay for these expensive tastes?

“The United States are much the largest proprietors of real estate within the city, and yet they have paid comparatively nothing toward the improvement of the streets, while individual owners of lots have paid more than \$400,000. I can perceive no principle which can justify the government in not paying along with other properties for the improvement of streets, which add to the value of their property, particularly when the government claims the right of property in the streets, points their direction and describes their dimensions, matters over which the corporation of Washington can exercise no control, but are the passive instruments of the people of the United States.

“If the United States had paid in proportion to the property they hold within the city, as other proprietors have done, their proportion toward the expenses of the city since the year 1802 would at this time amount to more than the entire debt of the corporation.

“The citizens and the corporation of Washington have, with a public spirit which does them a great credit, effected much; they have struggled on under great disadvantages; they have built up a city for the accommodation of the people of the United States, under the most adverse circumstances, with but little aid from its wealthiest and largest proprietor, without foreign commerce or internal trade.

“The people of the District stand towards the Congress of the United States in a peculiar and unusual position; they are excluded from many of those rights which are dearest to an

American bosom ; they have no voice upon this floor ; to them we owe no responsibility ; they can make no appeals but to our justice and humanity, and I do trust that in an American Congress that appeal will never be made in vain.

“When the government was poor and needy, individuals aided you in building up the metropolis of the nation. Now, when you are rich, when you are embarrassed with your wealth, render to those who were your friends in your hours of need a simple act of justice.”

Miss Louisa S. Weightman of Gen. Weightman, January 6, 1918, writes :

“Before the death of his wife . . . the family was prominent in the social life of Washington and for many years a fancy ball they gave was talked about as one of the unique and beautiful of the social events of that time.”

In this connection James Croggon has :

“Ten years later the Bank of Washington had come from Capitol Hill and bought the Stettinius property facing Louisiana avenue, 7th and C streets, on which was a spacious three-storied brick building on the site now covered by the National Bank of Washington. Gen. Weightman was then the Cashier of the bank and had his residence over the bank for a number of years. Gen. Weightman’s residence became as well known as the bank itself. He was prominent in social as well as business circles, and the halls over the vaults and office were often the scenes of society functions. One of these was a fancy ball, in 1837, at which Washington’s ‘400’ turned out en masse, and this having equalled, if not surpassed, all prior affairs of this kind, ‘Gen. Weightman’s ball’ was long in the minds of the people.”

These reminiscences invite the extract from the “Life and Letters of Dolly Madison” :

“Mrs. Madison’s affability was in youth—throughout—and

in age. In youth she was courteous to age and in age, she was bending to youth. It is no wonder, then, that in age she was honored by youth and that youth courted her presence and withdrew every limitation that might discourage it.

“‘Bal Costume.’

“Mrs. Weightman requests the pleasure of Mrs. Madison’s company on Thursday evening the 21st of Feb. at 8 o’clock in Fancy Costume.

“Thursday, Jan’y 31st (1839).

“My dear Madam :

“Understanding that you feel some difficulty in coming to the Fancy Ball in Fancy Costume, allow me to say that I shall be most happy to see you in your usual dress—

“I am dear Madam

“Yrs most cordially

“SERENA L. WEIGHTMAN.”

Mrs. Weightman was Louisa Serena Hanson, the youngest daughter of Samuel Hanson and Mary Kay Hanson. Mr. Hanson was collaterally related to John Hanson, a delegate from Maryland to the Continental Congress and its President. Mrs. Hanson wrote her name interchangeably, Louisa Serena and Serena Louisa. Samuel Hanson died December 16, 1830, in his seventy-eighth year. Mrs. Weightman died about the year 1839.

In Mr. Weightman’s time also was determined effort by those who care not for that which “maketh glad the heart of man” to prevent those who did from recourse to the medium of gladness. The advocates of abstinence could within the covers of the scriptures find authority so overflowing as to ignore the inquiry, “Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man” and Paul’s suggestion to Timothy to use a little for tonic purposes. The patriarch Noah, drunken with success as a manager of a menagerie, had toasted

himself too freely and was of the awful examples. The direness of drunkenness was preached early and late and none escaped, old or young, the warning of evil. A grandchild asked Mr. Weightman if he was ever drunk. He confessed he had been and the young ones listened for the tale of orgy and disgrace. "In Alexandria, when I was ten years old, I leaned over the vats and breathed the pungent and pleasant fumes until I reeled and fell from intoxication."

The directories disclose that Mr. Weightman lived, 1822, in Weightman Row and he had his place of business there. The Bank of Washington in 1827 was on the east side of New Jersey Avenue between B and C Streets south and Mr. Weightman over the banking rooms lived. In 1834 the bank had removed to Seventh and C and Louisiana Avenue and Mr. Weightman lived on the avenue side of the bank building. About 1850 he moved to the north side of the avenue and there he lived many years, including the period he was connected with the Patent Office. Old numbering 43.

Mr. Weightman contributed his interests in square 491 and George Calvert and others contributed theirs in the same square, October 24, 1831, to an association to own the hotel. In the association Mr. Weightman had originally sixty-eight shares of the total three hundred and fifteen. From time to time he realized on some of his shares and transferred some to members of his family. The final sale, twenty-six shares, was made, May 11, 1871, to the new formed National Hotel Company.

Mr. Weightman was the Chief Clerk of the Patent Office from June 1, 1851, to May, 1853. Under a change of administration he was changed to a second-class clerk and his duties were in the library. He experienced "the joys of librarianship"⁹ for twenty years;

⁹ "The Joys of Librarianship," Arthur E. Bostwick.

for "to the useful type of mind that delights in effecting public enlightenment this task makes a special appeal." In 1870 he was removed to the outside. Governor Shepherd, at the time Vice-President of the Board of Public Works, gave him a position with the Board, which he resigned when illness required.

Mr. Weightman ascended the military ladder and became a Colonel. The correspondence is preserved that shows Captain Force's request for the appointment of the next day for himself and his command to make a complimentary call—the Colonel's compliance with the request—with the result that the hour not being designated Captain Force and his company came when the Colonel was somewhere else. March 27, 1860, President Buchanan appointed Mr. Weightman Major General of the Militia of the District of Columbia. General Weightman had his headquarters in the Patent Office Library. He received the company lists for enlistment. He was assisted by Col. Charles P. Stone, specially in the detective department.

To the Mayor, Mr. Berret, General Weightman made this communication:

"February 1, 1861.

"*Dear Sir:* Be pleased to send me at your earliest convenience a list of the names and residences of your police force for day and for night service.

"If the assistance of the police should be required it is important to have the means of reaching them as early as practicable."

The Mayor replied that he would not relinquish an important prerogative of the Mayor's office, the virtual subordination of the civil of the city to the military of the District. That "he is not sensible of the existence of any legal provision which empowers a military of-

ficer, however high in rank, even in the presence of the most imminent danger, to assume command of the police or to make requisition upon the Mayor for its service."

General Weightman informed the Mayor that he misunderstood his request. That he simply wished to be in a position to have the services of an officer or more in an emergency. That he had no notion of interfering with the Mayoral duties.

The Mayor with elaboration adhered to his refusal. It is not improbable that the Mayor had more partisanship than principle. At any rate it created a suspicion of disloyalty which increased by his declination to take the prescribed oath as Police Commissioner. The declination made him the government's guest in a fortress in New York harbor.

General Weightman did not have to wait until Charon had him safely rowed to the far side of the Styx and his attention distracted from celestial employment, to read his own obituarial review. For three years and nearly four he could do that while yet in the land of the mortals. In *The Star* of July 1, 1872, he read:

"Gen. R. C. Weightman, one of our oldest and most estimable citizens, is lying at the point of death at his residence on 20th street between G and H. His attending physician, Dr. Maxwell of the Navy, believes that he cannot long survive."

The General must have been pleased with the recitation of his achievements and in his pleasure indulgently overlooked the slight inaccuracies of the reporter.

General Weightman died February 2, 1876, in the morning, at his residence 717½ Twentieth Street.

Official correspondence:

“(To Col. Amos Webster, Adjutant General of the D. C. militia.)

“The funeral of the late Roger C. Weightman, the Commissioners are informed, will take place next Sunday under the auspices of the Masonic societies of the city. General Weightman was major general of the District militia; and one time mayor of the city; he was also an officer in the last war with Great Britain, and for many years an influential, prominent and active citizen. It would, therefore, seem to be a proper reason for a military display as a mark of respect, and the Commissioners refer the subject to you for such decision and action as you shall consider advisable and proper in the premises.

“Very respectfully,

“WM. TINDALL, *Secretary.*

“General Orders No. 16. The companies comprising the 1st Regiment N. G., D. C. M., are hereby ordered to attend as an escort at the funeral of the late Major General Roger C. Weighman, to take place on Sunday, the 5th inst. at 2.30 o'clock p. m. from the Masonic Temple. Col. Robert I. Fleming will command and make all necessary arrangements for the prompt execution of this order.

“By order of the Commissioners,

“A. WEBSTER, *Adj. Gen. D. C. M.*”

“To BRIG. GEN. WM. G. MOORE, Commanding D. C. M.”

General Weightman's Masonic history is that he was the first candidate for membership in Lebanon Lodge, No. 7, F. A. A. M., chartered in 1811; his application dated November 14, of that year. In the Lodge he was Senior Warden; and in the Grand Lodge, Grand Master. His offices “he filled with honor to himself and satisfaction to the craft.”

Services were held at the Masonic Temple. The pallbearers were John B. Blake and Thomas M. Hanson, representing the Oldest Inhabitants; Cols. James G.

Payne and Nathaniel B. Fugitt, the militia; Past Grand Masters Charles F. Stansbury and James E. F. Holmead, the Grand Lodge of Masons; John Purdy and Nicholas Acker, Lebanon Lodge. The services were largely attended; of the prominent in attendance were the Ex-Mayors Wallach and Emery, Ex-Gov. Shepherd and his military successor, General Peter F. Bacon.

The procession moved to the Congressional Cemetery in the following order:

Detachment of mounted police.

Marine band, 55 pieces.

Battalion of First Regiment, National Guard, D. C.;

Col. Robert I. Fleming, commanding.

Washington, Columbia and De Molay commanderies of Knight Templars. Lebanon Lodge. Grand Lodge.

The casket bore the inscription: "Roger C. Weightman, died February 2, 1876, aged 89 years."

The Star had, February 2, 1876: "He had an unsullied reputation, and possessed many traits of character which ennoble the possessor."

The *National Republican* had, February 7, 1876: "In that station (Mayor) he performed the duties in a dignified, gentlemanly manner, and by his administration of the office won the undivided confidence of the public for honesty and fidelity to the trust reposed in him."

He who follows the long life of General Roger Chew Weightman—a span of four score and ten—will find he was printer and publisher, stationer and general merchant, soldier and statesman, banker and librarian, sometimes rich and sometimes reduced; and always commendably doing. And in his days' decline, it could have been said:

“Age sits with decent grace upon his visage,
And worthily becomes his silver locks;
He wears the marks of many years well spent,
Of virtue, truth well tried, and wise experience.”
Rowe’s “Jane Shore.”

The paragraphs that Miss Miller contributes to historical papers have interest conveyed in naïve charm:

“THE ROCHAMBEAU,
“January 24, 1918,

“*My dear Mr. Clark,*

“I wish I could help you with regard to Genl. Weightman and Mr. Gales, but tho’ they were familiar figures in my childhood, I cannot recall anything specially worth recording. They were both very close and intimate friends of my grandfather Genl. Walter Jones and Genl Weightman succeeded him as Major General District Militia. . . . Genl Weightman’s sister-in-law Miss Ann Hanson, kept house for him, and I always thought she must be a hundred years old—she seemed so to my youthful eyes—she taught music and the first lessons I ever had on the piano were from her. She was a great snuff taker and deplored having acquired the habit, said my grandfather and grandmother were so sensible when they set their faces against the custom. She died after the war a very suffering death due to a fall—her niece Miss Serena Weightman lived with her. . . . Genl Weightman as I remember him was very good looking, and always so courteous and kindly, and I most truly wish I could help you to make a suitable record of him, but I cannot. He lived you know on Louisiana avenue near 6th street, and he and Mr. Force were among my grandfather’s most ardent admirers. Thank you for telling me of the records you find of my grandfather. He must have been a wonderful man and very modest with it all. I remember him with greatest affection and am very proud of him. With kind regards

“Very sincerely yours
“VIRGINIA MILLER.”

Miss Louisa S. Weightman has given enthusiastic assistance to the preparation of this paper. With other information is this by her pen, January 6, 1918:

"Gen. Weightman had a large family, six sons and two daughters. Most of them died quite young but one daughter spent her whole life in Washington and died unmarried twenty-five years ago at about the age of fifty-five.

"One son went to Louisiana, married and died there.

"The eldest son, Richard Hanson Weightman, volunteered in the Mexican war—in the 40's—returning a Major. Again during the Civil War he went to the front, this time in the Southern Army. He fought under Gen. Sterling Price and was killed at Springfield, Mo., in 1861.¹⁰

"His sons and daughters have lived most of their lives in Washington. Richard Coxe Weightman was for many years connected with *The Washington Post*.

"A second son named for the grandfather Roger Chew Weightman died in 1904 leaving a daughter and two sons who bear the family names and keep up the family reputations.

"Lieut. R. Hanson Weightman, great grandson of the old General, is in France with the Weather Bureau, sent by Gen. Pershing's request.

"The second great grandson, Lieut. Roger Chew Weightman, has been for several years in the Coast Guard Service. He is now at an Atlantic port awaiting orders to go 'Over there.'

"There are still two more great grandsons of Gen. Weightman deserving mention. Roger Weightman Jannus and Antony H. Jannus, sons of Frankland Jannus and Emmeline Carlisle Weightman Jannus. Both have made records as aviators. Antony H. Jannus was killed in Russia thro' an accident to his machine a little more than a year ago. Lieut.

¹⁰ Born in Washington, D. C., December 28, 1816. Attended the West Point military academy, 1835-'7. Dismissed for a contemplated duel near Washington. Captain Missouri light infantry in the Mexican War. Moved to Sante Fe, New Mexico. Delegate as Democrat to Congress, March 4, 1851 to March 3, 1853. Killed while commanding a brigade, C.S.A. at Wilson's Creek, Mo., August 10, 1861.

Roger Weightman Jannus is stationed at Ellington Field, Texas, to which place he is returning at this writing with his bride; having been married, Dec. 27th last, to Miss Lucille R. Taylor of Mount Clemens, Mich.

"The writer has lost touch with the Louisiana Weightmans but the loyal, patriotic old General may have grandsons and great grandsons there too serving their country in this time, when every man, and for that matter every woman, must needs do the duty at hand."

"I am aware that the information regarding Gen. Weightman is very meager but he was a man who never talked of himself, and most of the things I, his granddaughter, know have come to me from outsiders. I well remember tho' his funeral which occurred, I think, in the early 70's. He was buried by the Masons one Sunday afternoon in a drenching rain—yet excepting at Inaugurations or some such public function I have never seen a greater crowd. The avenue was lined with people, many of them of the poorer classes, drawn there, I was afterwards told, by memory of some kind act of his to them."

A brother of the General was Richard Weightman, born at Alexandria about 1792, died at Washington, October 30, 1841. He was a successful physician. It is of the Doctor, Margaret Bayard Smith, August 30, 1814, writes this White House incident:

"The day before Cockburn paid this house a visit and forced a young gentleman of our acquaintance to go with him,—on entering the dining-room they found the table spread for dinner, left precipitately by Mrs. M.— he insisted on young Weightman's sitting down and drinking Jemmy's health, which was the only epithet he used whenever he spoke of the President. After looking round, he told Mr. W. to take something to remember this day. Mr. W. wished for some valuable article. No, no said he, *that* I must give to the flames, but here, handing him some ornaments off the mantle-piece, these will answer as a memento."¹¹

¹¹ "Forty Years of Washington Society," Margaret B. Smith.

John Weightman, a brother, was a dry goods merchant in Washington. Opened June 9, 1812, next door to Davis's Tavern, Pennsylvania avenue. He emigrated to the great west and was never heard of more.

Henry T. Weightman, a brother, was cashier of the Patriotic Bank, at the southeast corner of 7th and D streets.

The Washington Post, February 18, 1914:

"Richard C. Weightman, one of the oldest and most widely known newspaper men of Washington, and for many years an editorial writer on *The Post*, died yesterday morning in his home, 1906 Sunderland place northwest. He had been ill several months with a complication of grip and heart disease. He was 70 years old. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Laura Weightman, and one sister, Miss L. S. Weightman, of the Berkshire apartments. He had two children, who died several years ago.

"Funeral services will be held tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock at his home. Interment will be private. Mrs. Weightman's brother is expected to arrive today from New Orleans.

"Mr. Weightman was born in Washington, October 20, 1844. His father was Col. R. Hanson Weightman, of the Confederate army, and his mother was Miss Susan Coxe, also of this city. Young Weightman went to the schools of Washington and later attended a private school at Catonsville, Md.

"The Weightman family went to Kansas to live when Richard was about 13 years old, and when the war broke out the father became attached to the staff of Gen. Sterling Price, commanding the Confederate army of Missouri. He was killed at Springfield, Mo., in the first year of the rebellion.

"Gen. Price was greatly interested in the son of his intrepid colonel and offered young Richard a place as aid on his staff, which was accepted. But that sort of service was not to the liking of the youth, and he entered the ranks as a private and fought through the war, a part of the time serving with Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard. The end of the war found Weightman in New Orleans with his way to make, and he secured a position on the staff of the *Picayune*.

“After several years of distinguished newspaper service in that city, during which time he married Miss Laura Jury, one of the beauties of the old regime, he came to Washington and joined the staff of *The Post* as an editorial writer.

“A few years age he left *The Post* and became a member of the staff of the *New York Sun*, serving in a similar capacity. A little more than two years ago he went to Staunton, Va., having become identified with a newspaper enterprise there. He returned to Washington last September.

“Mr. Weightman was a prolific writer for magazines and weekly publications, as well as newspapers. He was a member of the Metropolitan Club, and enjoyed the acquaintance of statesmen, diplomats, and the literary and art leaders of the world.”